



## ALTERNATE-LEAF DOGWOOD

*Cornus alternifolia* L. f.



**A**lternate-leaf or blue dogwood occurs throughout the state as a shrub or small tree up to 20 feet tall.

The **leaves** are alternate, entire, elliptic-ovate and tend to be crowded at the ends of the twigs. They are 2½–4½ inches long, yellowish-green, smooth above and have appressed hairs beneath.

The creamy white **flower** clusters appear in June after the leaves have developed. The **fruit** is a bluish-black drupe, somewhat round, about ⅓ inch in diameter, that ripens in September and October.

The **twigs** are often lustrous and greenish-brown. Dead twigs become bright yellow-green.

